

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

1-34. Canceled.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ A method for preparing an aqueous adhesive composition comprising preparing an aqueous butadiene polymer latex by emulsion polymerization of at least one butadiene monomer in the presence of a stabilizer selected from styrene sulfonic acid, styrene sulfonate, poly(styrene sulfonic acid) or poly(styrene sulfonate) and an anionic surfactant in the absence of a volatile organic compound, and combining the aqueous butadiene polymer latex with(a) an aromatic nitroso compound (b)~~an aqueous butadiene polymer latex prepared by emulsion polymerization of at least one butadiene monomer in the presence of a stabilizer selected from styrene sulfonic acid, styrene sulfonate, poly(styrene sulfonic acid) or poly(styrene sulfonate) and an anionic surfactant, and~~

~~wherein said aqueous butadiene polymer latex is prepared in the absence of a volatile organic compound.~~

36. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method for preparing an adhesive composition according to claim 35 wherein the butadiene monomer is selected from 2,3-dichloro-1,3-dimethylbutadiene; chloroprene; bromoprene; 2,3-dibrom-1,3-butadiene; 1,1,2-trichlorobutadiene; cyanoprene; or hexachlorobutadiene.

37. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method for preparing an adhesive composition according to claim 36 wherein the butadiene monomer comprises 2,3-dichloro-1, 3-butadiene.

38. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method for preparing an adhesive composition according to claim 35 wherein the stabilizer comprises poly(styrene sulfonate).

39. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method for preparing an adhesive composition according to claim 35 wherein the butadiene polymer is prepared by copolymerization of the dichlorobutadiene with at least one copolymerizable monomer.

40. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The method for preparing an adhesive composition according to claim 39 wherein the copolymerizable monomer comprises an α -haloacrylonitrile.
41. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The method for preparing an adhesive composition according to claim 35 wherein the butadiene polymer latex is prepared by emulsion polymerization of at least 60 weight percent dichlorobutadiene monomer, wherein the weight percent is based on the weight of total monomers used to prepare the butadiene polymer.
42. (Currently Amended) The method for preparing an adhesive according to claim 35 further comprising a dispersion of a phenolic resin and a metal oxide.
43. (Currently Amended) The method for preparing an adhesive according to claim 35 wherein said aromatic nitroso compound is an aromatic hydrocarbon containing at least two nitroso groups attached directly to non-adjacent ring carbon atoms.
44. (Currently Amended) The method for preparing an adhesive according to claim 43 wherein said aromatic hydrocarbon is selected from benzene, naphthalene, anthracene, and biphenyl.
45. (Currently Amended) The method for preparing an adhesive according to claim 35, wherein said aromatic nitroso compound contains from 1 to 3 aromatic nuclei, including fused aromatic nuclei, and said compound contains from 2 to 6 nitroso groups attached directly to non-adjacent nuclear carbon atoms.
46. (Currently Amended) The method for preparing an adhesive according to claim 45 wherein said aromatic nitroso compound is dinitrosobenzene or dinitrosonaphthalene.
47. (Currently Amended) The method for preparing an adhesive according to claim 45 wherein said aromatic nitroso compound is selected from meta-dinitrosobenzene, para-dinitrosobenzene, meta- dinitrosonaphthalene and para-dinitrosonaphthalene.

48. (Withdrawn) The method for preparing an adhesive according to claim 45 wherein on said aromatic nuclei, nuclear hydrogen atoms are substituted by a group selected from alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl, arylamine, arylnitroso, amino, and halogen groups.

49. (Currently Amended) The method for preparing an adhesive according to claim 35 wherein said aromatic nitroso compound is selected from m-dinitrosobenzene, p-dinitrosobenzene, m-dinitrosonaphthalene, p-dinitrosonaphthalene, 2,5-dinitroso-p-cymene, 2-methyl-1,4-dinitrosobenzene, 2-methyl-5-chloro-1,4-dinitrosobenzene, 2-fluoro-1,4-dinitrosobenzene, 2-methoxy-1-3-dinitrosobenzene, 5-chloro-1,3-dinitrosobenzene, 2-benzyl-1,4-dinitrosobenzene, 2-cyclohexyl-1,4-dinitrosobenzene, and combinations thereof.

50. – 52. (Cancelled)